

# Statement of Solidarity Against Anti-Black and Anti-Indigenous Racism

Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre work in solidarity with Black communities in calling for justice as we witnessed the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota and the inexplicable death in this city of Regis Korchinski-Paquet during an encounter with the police after a 911 call had been made to support her.

We also mourn and call the name of Chantel Moore, a 26-year-old Indigenous woman in New Brunswick who ended up dead from 5 bullets by police, after her boyfriend called the police asking them assist with a wellness check. The death of Chantel Moore comes on the heels of the first-year anniversary of the report from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the glacial pace of action on its recommendations.

There must be police accountability to Black and Indigenous communities for this repeated pattern of the killing and death of our community members in their most vulnerable moments.

A deepening of purpose and urgency to work for what is just and right in all we do to interrupt racism, particularly anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, hate and stigma against marginalized populations.

This moment of the words from Barbara Deming, an American feminist and advocate of nonviolent social change, when she stated **“WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT OUR LIVES”** a statement she made protesting violence against women. It holds true for this time in our history as we witness the casual brutality of George Floyd’s murder.

In our work we must all make a commitment to each other to interrupt acts of oppression and to not be oppressive, as they constitute a form of violence that takes a psychic toll on those against whom such actions are directed.

The past weeks we saw over 20 overdose events in our Supervised Consumption Services' and numerous overdose deaths in the community. Just recently there was a protest in the St. Lawrence market area against the placement of a respite physical distancing location for homeless/unsheltered people. Everyday Indigenous, Black, brown, queer, trans, non-binary, female identified bodies, people whose faiths are not part of western dominant cultures, experience daily instances of micro-aggression. These acts and events are not disconnected, as racism, stigma and discrimination are roots of the same tree that gives rise to white-supremacy and profit over people.

As a community we ask you to not be immobilized by the grief, the anger, the hurt, the disappointment, the pain, the trauma but instead to call upon them as tools and to draw on the principle of justice and the values of social justice and social change. We need them now more than ever as we work to re-imagine a world in recovery from the pandemic of COVID-19 and Racism.

Purpose and urgency must inform our actions large and small to bring justice into focus.

Abiding solidarity and revolutionary love,

Angela Robertson, Executive Director



# #BlackLivesMatter

# #IndigenousLivesMatter



**PARKDALE  
QUEEN WEST**  
Community  
Health Centre